A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 2. 1708

IN discourſing of the *Spaniſh* Affair, here is an ill-natur'd Queſtion ſtarted to me, *Viz. You taunt us here with the* QUEEN *being ſatisfy'd, and the Parliament voting, &c.* as to the Deficiency in *Spain, and you would knock us on the Head with great Names*; but, *what if the* QUEEN *is ſatisfy'd, and the Commons ſatisfy'd, the Nation is not ſatisfy'd*—— A Deficiency there has been, *we have been beaten, King* Charles *has not been ſupported*, the War *has not been carry'd on as it ſhould be, there muſt be Deficiencies ſomewhere, we are not bound to acquieſce in the Satisfaction of the great Ones*; it is plain, *the thing is not done.*

This, I find, is the preſent Uſe made of the Thing, and this is the Shift the clamouring Party are driven to; I ſhall ſoon drive them from this Retreat.

And firſt I'll grant, to pleaſe them, *however it may ſeem to juſtifie their wants of Good Manners to the Queen*, That Her Majeſty's Satisfaction in this Caſe, without Reaſons *and Particulars too of the Grounds* of that Satisfaction, does not oblige us to be equally eaſie, or, in ſhort, that we are not bound to be ſatisfy'd, meerly becauſe her Majeſty is ſo; and this, I preſume, is as rude to the QUEEN, as their Hearts can wiſh.

Well, but has the QUEEN deſir'd you to take her Word, *tho' you can never reproach her Majeſty with the Breach of it hitherto?* Her Goodneſs prompts her to joyn her Subjects Satisfaction with her own, and the Words are expreſs, to let you ſee the Concern her Majeſty has, *firſt* for Juſtice, in examining the Fact; and *ſecondly* for her Peoples Satisfaction, in giving them all poſſible

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Demonſtrations of what has been done, in order to carry on their Intereſt; her Majeſty has cauſed Enquiry to be made, to the End the ſame may be ſet in the cleareſt Light, for the Satisfaction of Her-ſelf and her Subjects.

Her Majeſty does not ſay, She has cauſed Enquiry to be made, and being fully aſſur'd no Care has been wanting. &c. therefore her Subjects ought to be ſatisfy'd with that Aſſurance, and *a la-mode* the Language of *Verſailes*, *They ought to believe their Monarchs Care and Vigilance cannot be wanting in every due Application*, &c. or in the Language of the former Reigns here, *On our Royal Word*, &c. but *for the Satisfaction of her Subjects, her Majeſty has cauſed this Matter to be ſet in the cleareſt Light.*

There might be a great many uſeful Notes made from this Text.

1. That her Majeſty's Satisfaction is formed in the *ſetting Matters in the cleareſt Light*, a Thing, I muſt tell you, *England* for ſome Ages had not been us'd to; *our Monarchs Satisfaction* lay generally in ſetting their Affairs *out of the Light*, and covering their Actions with the thick Darkneſs of Court-Management, make their Subjects live by Faith on them that keep no Faith; but in juſt Governments you ſee it is not ſo, and it is for Want of looking back to *thoſe inſtructing Days*, that we do not know how to value *theſe*.
2. *Setting Things in a clear Light*, is the only Way to keep the Minds of the Nation eaſie, and keep the Perſons employ'd in the Adminiſtration ſafe; that Government, that on all Occaſions dares ſet their Actions in the cleareſt Light, can never ſuffer any Convulſions from Factions, Parties, Long-Speech-makers, or any Sort of Combination of Diſmals whatever.
3. Thoſe People, whom *a clear Sight of Fact* will not ſatisfie, are uneaſie from Cauſes, which they dare not ſet in a *clear Light* themſelves.
4. The People of *England* are always ſatisfy'd, when Things are *ſet in a clear Light*; and the Murmurs of deſigning Men, tho' they may do Miſchief, and may abuſe and impoſe upon a few, yet *a clear Light into Matters of Fact* never fails to undeceive and reſtore them.
5. How ungrateful to the QUEEN, and deſtructive to the publick Good, is it, for any Perſon to ſpread Suggeſtions and ſlanderous Reproaches upon a Government, who are always ready to ſet their Affairs *in the cleareſt Light*, and fairly leave all Miſmanagers to the Law?

I might make a long Sermon from this Text, but I think verily, the QUEEN has gotten an entire Victory over the *railing Spirit* of this Party, and that by one of the moſt generous, honeſt and prudenteſt Actions in the World, and therefore I need not enlarge; let their own Gall inſtruct them, and let them ſee their Crime in the Puniſhment, *Viz.* The juſt Contempt the Nation puts upon them, and the univerſal Satisfaction all honeſt Men have; *Firſt, in the thing it ſelf*, every honeſt Man receives a ſecret Pleaſure in finding, that let the Succeſs abroad have been what it pleaſes GOD, *for theſe Things are at his Sovereign Diſpoſe*— Yet 'tis plain, *no Care has been wanting at Home*, every one has diſcharg'd his Part; the Battle of *Almanza* was a Blow to us, which could not be prevented; the Parliament had indeed provided for a good Number of Troops, but that Proviſion was made but in *February*, and the Battle was fought in *April*; it was impoſſible to raiſe and furniſh the Troops, much leſs get them thither; what was poſſible to be done, was done, and Methods taken to procure foreign Troops, when it appear'd our own would be hard to raiſe, and no Body has fail'd in their Duty; what more could be done? Wiſe Men are always eaſie when they have us'd their utmoſt Endeavour, and no Man in the World can be anſwerable for Succeſs.

Secondly, In the obliging Manner, in which her Majeſty has treated even the Jealouſies of her People, that when by a partial ſtating the Matter of Fact to the Houſe, the People without Doors began to apprehend they had been abuſed, and the Nation injur'd; her Majeſty, inſtead of reſenting

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the Rashness of their Temper, and expressing her Dislike at their Rudeness in acting *Solomon*'s Fool, *to judge of a Matter before they hear it*, only calmly and coolly, and with a Goodness peculiar to Her-self, causes the Matter to be impartially examin'd, and gives the Particulars in to the Representative of *Britain*, and all this FOR THE SATISFACTION OF HER SUBJECTS.

And what's the Consequence? Truly just what ought to be the Consequence of an Action so truly great, *viz.* All her Majesty's Subjects, that are honest and peaceable, that love their Country, and wish its Prosperity, are both satisfy'd and thankful; the Parliament, and in them the whole Nation, have in a most obliging Manner return'd their Thanks to her Majesty, and none but our Enemies repine, and are uneasie.

But now our Murmurers lay hold of two Things more to fill their Throats with Foam, and to supply their continual Croakings at the Government; and these are, *First*, the Deficiency of the Allies; and *Secondly*, the ill Behaviour of our Sea Officers; and both these I shall speak distinctly to in my next.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have spent too much Time upon the Cavils of the *Rehearsals*, and I confess, when I view the End of his Discourses, and the Manner, I owe my Time ill spent to take Notice of his Paper; a Paper calculated to serve a Party, and yet highly scandalous to the Party it seems to serve—— For what can be more scandalous to the Church of *England*, than to accept of his Pretences to defend her, who himself has renounc'd her, and is of that Party that declares her Schismatical? Can there be any greater Reproach to the Gentlemen of the Clergy, than to see them wheedled by an Author, that would fain have himself acknowledg'd their Defender?

How, Gentlemen of the Church, this Man defend your Church, whom your Church has spu'd out as an Enemy to her Establishment? Mark but the Circumstances of the Man and the Paper:

'Tis written by a *Non-Juror*.
'Tis printed by a *Papist*.
Its Encouragers are the *Jacobites*.
And I'll prove its Contents to be High Treason.

Is this your Advocate, Gentlemen of the High-Church? Pray look upon the Object, look on him with Impartiality and Self-Reflection; do but see the Tools and Agents the *High-Flying* Cause is upheld by.

Well, then view the Manner. The Author has Cunning and Learning—and Reading, say they, and speaks well—— So must those Delusions have had, that were to deceive even the very Elect, if possible; but with all his Reading and Learning, he is driven to the necessary Arts of Cavil and Sophisms, omitting to answer when any thing pinches him; passing over what he cannot defend, false representing of Fact, and unfair Treatment both of Persons and Things.

How often has he been desir'd to prove that Assertion of his own, That we can have no Union in *England*, but a Union of Principles, to make us happy, but never will say a Word to it.

Now, how pitifully does he shift in his Union of the *Scots* and *English* Bishops?—The Cover is too short for the Bed, and the naked Legs of his adulterous Conjunction appear— He would have the *Scots* Bishops, who reject the QUEEN, and disown the Government, receiv'd as Part of the Church of *England*, but dares not tell us, what he means by the Church of *England*, for then the Church of *England* would see him unmask'd. The Case is plain, he means the *Non Jurants* of the Church, who were deposed by the Revolution; with these his *Scots* Bishops being joyn'd, he forms his Church of *England*.

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